



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of November 21, 2021

Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted

This week, WEPC Youth Director Isaiah Thomas preached from [Matthew 5:10](#)

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

- **Can you give an example of someone who is "persecuted for righteousness' sake"?**

The beatitudes—each and every one of them—are descriptions of what every Christian is meant to be. Some of us at WEPC have experienced large-scale religious persecution. However, in a country where we know religious freedom and little threat of violence because of our faith, this beatitude can be difficult to relate to. Yet, the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy that *everyone* who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted ([II Timothy 3:12](#)). What does it mean for the Church to be persecuted for righteousness' sake?

Certainly, it means that **we have a family responsibility toward brothers & sisters around the world who are persecuted for following Christ.**

- **What would be an example of bearing with persecuted Christian communities?**

Also, **we can expect persecution as the norm as followers of Jesus**, even in a land with religious freedom. Whether in our families, our workplace, or in the culture, Jesus Christ will create tension with those around us. This, the Scripture says, is something we should embrace as a sign of belonging to Him. Reflecting in this beatitude, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote "Discipleship means allegiance to the suffering of Christ, and it is therefore not at all surprising that Christians should be called upon to suffer. In fact, it is a joy and token of His grace... Not recognition, but rejection, is the reward Christians get from the world."

- **How does this idea encourage or challenge you that persecution will be a normal of discipleship?**

Finally, persecution, whether great or small, is **an opportunity for fellowship and communion with Jesus Himself**, who "for the joy set before Him endured the cross."

- **What is one thing that the suffering of persecution teaches us about our Lord and His Kingdom? To see more of the blessing & inheritance associated with persecution, read [Acts 5:12-42](#)**
- **Pray together** in light of this week's beatitude.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org